

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are currently pending in the application. By this response, no claims are amended, added, or canceled. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

Provisional Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-14 were provisionally rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10 of copending Application No. 10/932,337. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Since this is a provisional rejection, Applicants are not providing any comments as to whether the claims of the instant application are obvious in view of the claims in copending Application No. 10/932,337, and hence are not providing a terminal disclaimer at this time. Moreover, as there are no other rejections in the instant application, Applicants submit that the provisional rejection must be withdrawn. MPEP §804 states:

The "provisional" double patenting rejection should continue to be made by the examiner in each application as long as there are conflicting claims in more than one application unless that "provisional" double patenting rejection is the only rejection remaining in at least one of the applications.

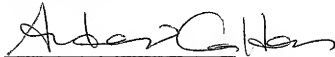
Because the provisional double patenting rejection is the only rejection remaining in the instant application, the provisional double patenting rejection should be withdrawn and the application permitted to issue as a patent.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the provisional rejection over claims 1-14 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that all of the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicants hereby make a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Respectfully submitted,
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